(c) the details of comprehensive steps taken or proposed to be taken for developing food processing industry/sector in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) As per the report of M/s Rabo India Finance Private Limited, wastage of the agricultural foodstuffs is estimated to be about Rs. 58000 crore occurring at various stages of handling after harvesting like inadequate post-harvest infrastructure, lack of cold chain facilities, transportation, proper storage facilities etc.

(b) and (c) Government has formulated and implemented several Plan Schemes to provide financial assistance for establishment and modernization of food processing units, creation of infrastructure, support for R&D, human resource development besides other promotional measures to encourage development of food processing industries. Recently, in order to give boost to growth of FPI sector the Government has allowed under Income Tax Act, a deduction of 100% of profit for five years and 25% of profit for the next five years in case of new agro processing industries set up to process, preserve and package fruits and vegetables. Excise duty of 16% on dairy machinery has been fully waived for promotion of dairy processing industries. Excise duty on meat, poultry and fish products has been reduced from 16% to 8%. Excise duty on food grade hexane used in edible oil industry has been reduced from 32% to 16%. A National Horticulture Mission has been launched *w.e.f.* 1st April 2005 with an objective to boost the horticulture sector. In the Budget of 2005-06 excise duty of Rs. 1.00 per kg on refined edible-oil and Rs. 1.25 per kg on vanaspati was abolished. Customs duty on refrigerated vans was reduced from 20% to 10%.

New subjects in Chinese medical syllabus

†1344. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Medical Council of India (M.C.I) is considering to amend the Chinese medical syllabus or to add new subjects;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Status report of new medical colleges in Karnataka

1345. SHRI K.B. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has sent any report on the status of the proposed medical colleges at Hassan, Mandya and Belgaum in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether MCI has visited these colleges and submitted any report to Government;

(c) the steps, if any taken or proposed to be taken on the status report of the proposed Government medical colleges sent by the Karnataka Government; and

(d) whether Government would accord permission to start these medical colleges during 2005-06?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Medical Council of India after considering the written response of the State Government in respect of MCI's observations regarding these three medical colleges and noting various deficiencies have not recommended for grant of permission for starting of these three medical colleges by Government of Karnataka.

(d) Grant of permission for establishment of new medical college is subject to the college fulfilling the required facilities as per the MCI Regulations. Since, the time schedule prescribed in the Regulation of MCI for grant of permission for establishment of new medical college for the academic year 2005-06 is 15th July, 2005 and that the Supreme Court in the case of Mridul Dhar *V/s* Union of India has decided that the time schedule prescribed in the Regulations is to be adhered to, it is not possible to give permission for the current academic year.